



Shawnee National Forest

2016

Fall Calendar of Events

August

Leave No Trace Weekend Garden of the Gods Recreation Area

Saturday, August 27

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Leave No Trace Booth & Trail Activities
6 p.m.-7 p.m. Leave No Trace Program, Pharaoh Campground

Sunday, August 28

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Trash Clean-Up (*sign up required*)
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Leave No Trace Booth

Shawnee National Forest and its partners are pleased to host the Subaru/Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers at Garden of the Gods Recreation Area. This unique group uses fun, interactive activities to teach Leave No Trace outdoor ethic principles. The Leave No Trace Weekend is for all ages and will be based at the Garden of the Gods Observation Trail. RSVP is required for the Trash Clean-Up, so please call 618-833-8576 to register.

Partners include Touch of Nature Environmental Center SIU-C, River to River Trail Society, Friends of the Shawnee National Forest and Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau.

September

Wildflower Walks

Friday, September 16

4 p.m.
Todd Fink Natural Area
Meet at the Ozark General Store on Hwy 45 in Ozark

Saturday, September 17

10 a.m.
Cretaceous Hills Natural Area
Meet at the rest area along I-24 at the Metropolis/Brookport exit

Learn how to identify common plants and flowers. Botanist Chris Benda will provide handouts about plant identification, field guides, web resources and information on invasive species.

Please come dressed for the weather and bring water. Hikes will last up to four hours. Reservations are encouraged, as hikes will be limited to first 20 participants. Contact [Chris Benda](#).

Ozark Tour 2016

Saturday, September 24

8 a.m.
Meet at the Shawnee College Annex in Anna

Cost = \$40 per person (includes transportation, lunch, entry fees/donations and a souvenir t-shirt.)

Join experienced guides on a tour of scenic and historic sites in Union County and Shawnee National Forest. Fashioned after popular tours led by Col. L.O. Trigg in the 1930s and 40s, Ozark Tours are guided expeditions into the forests of southern Illinois to explore the region's history and natural beauty. Moderate hiking will be required. For more information or to register visit the Illinois [Ozarks website](#), [email Illinois ozarks](#) or call 618-264-5854.

This event is made possible through a partnership with the Illinois Ozarks, Gallatin and Saline County Tourism, Friends of the Shawnee, and the River to River Trail Society.



Hunting and Fishing Days

**Saturday, September 24 &
Sunday, September 25**

John A Logan College
Carterville

Celebrate the 29th Annual Hunting and Fishing Days! This event focuses on the legacy and activities of hunting and fishing in Illinois. It is an fun, family event that teaches ethics, safety and conservation to enhance your outdoor experience. Admission and parking are free! Visit their [website](#) for more information.

October

ENTICE Workshops

Saturday, October 1 (Mammals)

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Hidden Springs Ranger Office, Vienna

Expand your knowledge while you explore mammals or wetland ecosystems. Hear directly from experts in their field and learn what is happening locally in mammal or wetland conservation. Enjoy outdoor learning and live exhibits in this unique learning experience.

Tuesday, October 18 (Wetlands)

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cache River Wetland Visitor Center, Cypress

Co-hosted with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, educator workshops are open to the public. Participants receive lunch and supplemental educational materials as part of the session fee. Formal educators can earn professional development hours. Pre-registration required at the [ENTICE website](#).

Pre-registration required.

Critter Night

Friday, October 14

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Lincoln Memorial Picnic Grounds
Jonesboro

Join the Forest Service, Friends of the Shawnee National Forest, and Unimin Specialty Minerals, Inc. in an educational evening of activities and crafts centered on nocturnal animals. Visit a “bat cave,” hear Native American wildlife stories and hike an interpretive trail. Free Again, Inc. will present “Birds of Prey.” Please bring a lawn chair or a blanket.

Large groups (Scouts, 4-H Club, etc.) call ahead to preregister, Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District 618-833-8576.

Wildflower Walks

Saturday, October 15

10 a.m.

Provo Cemetery Barrens

Meet at the U.S. Post office in Tamms

Learn how to identify common plants and flowers. Botanist Chris Benda will provide handouts about plant identification terminology, field guides, web resources and information on invasive species.

Sunday, October 16

1 p.m.

Gum Springs/Hoggs Bluff/Split Rock

Meet at the Ozark General Store on Hwy 45 in Ozark

Please come dressed for the weather and bring water. Both hikes will last up to four hours. Reservations are encouraged as hikes will be limited to first 20 participants. Contact [Chris Benda](#).

November

U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree

Tuesday, November 22

9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Noble Park, Paducah, Ky.

[Capitol Christmas Tree Website](#)

The U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree is coming to Paducah! Meet Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl and Santa Claus. There will be photo opportunities, music, featured speakers, Forest Service displays, information tables and the Idaho Potato Truck.

The [2016 national Christmas Tree](#) will be harvested from the Payette National Forest in Idaho and stop in Paducah as it travels across the nation. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see the tree that will be displayed on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.